

**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion

**The First Amendment**  
 Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)

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## Siuslaw News

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## Siuslaw News

**Office:**  
 148 Maple St./PO Box 10  
 Florence, OR 97439

**Office Hours:**  
 Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Friday: 8 a.m. to noon

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY**

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

**POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:**

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) Explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Email letters to:

[nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com)

## WHERE TO WRITE

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**OREGON GOV.**

**KATE BROWN**  
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**STATE REP. BOOMER WRIGHT (DIST. 9)**  
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## Thank you all for the last 23 years ...

launched 18 years as the *Siuslaw News* sports editor.

In the nearly two decades that followed, I often found myself standing out on a sunlit field or listening to the

and obligation to the community that came with it. On the surface, a newspaper is a time capsule chronicling life in our community — informing those of today and offering its history

one's position; its about *understanding* their position — particularly when it is different from your own.

As I approach my last day here on May 31, I've had ample time to reflect on what this career has meant to me — and it really comes down to one simple word:

*You.*

Whether an athlete or coach from my early days as a sports reporter, or a community member who agrees or disagrees with some (or all) of my decisions as editor, I deeply appreciate each of you for the experience and opportunity to serve as a member of your local newspaper.

And while I certainly look old enough to retire thanks to all this grey hair, I'm still some years away from that and will instead be working part time delivering your mail for our local post office.

So, while I may no longer be working at the newspaper, I can still be a part of getting it to you — and serving our community in a different way.

Thank you all for the last 23 years ...

### From the Editor's Desk *Ned Hickson*

roar of the hometown crowds at Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools, unable to believe my good fortune doing what I did for a living: chronicling the games and careers of our local student athletes, coaches and their families.

People welcomed me into their lives in a special way that continues today when I see an athlete — now grown and with their own family — sitting in the stands watching their young Viking or Sailor competing on the field, basketball court or around the track.

When I became editor in 2016 and found myself sitting behind the desk I once sat across from during that 1998 job interview, I understood the responsibility

for those tomorrow. But it's more than that.

A newspaper is also a member of the community it serves, contributing what it can to its neighbors and the community conversation in the same way we each do as individuals.

Over the past five years, those conversations haven't all been pleasant ones as the changing dynamics of our world, society and community have challenged us — as individuals and, ultimately, as a newspaper.

Yet, one of the most rewarding aspects of being editor has been the conversations with people who have different opinions. That's because, ultimately, it's not about changing some-

## LETTERS

**CLIMATE CHANGE ISN'T OUR FAULT — IT'S THE EARTH'S**

According to Mr. Michael Allen's recent Guest Viewpoint ("Is Florence Essential In the Fight To Curb Climate Change?" May 22), the local climate petition has 391 signatories.

Those numbers indicate that there are 391 folks who "care a lot" about climate change, enough that they are willing to put their names to a declaration. Let's look at the number.

If 391 folks "care a lot," then let's suppose there are another 391 folks who only "care" but not that much.

That means the rest of us don't care very much at all.

The Florence population and surrounding territories that the *Siuslaw News* covers is maybe 10,000 folks. I can only surmise that less than 10 percent of the surrounding area cares about climate change.

Is that a fair assumption?

Here is a statistic that might give us all pause when we think about climate change and the causes and effects.

The Earth's continents move about .6 inches per year. California moves about 2 inches per year.

After say 100 years then, Oregon has moved 60 inches to the left. We can't move right because Idaho is blocking us. So we have to keep moving to the left.

Sorry righties, you are doomed.

Which brings me to my conclusion that the sky and the clouds and the sun and the rain stay right where they are while the Earth moves out of their way. Therefore, on the west

side of my house (the left), I get more or less rain, more or less sunshine, more or less clouds than the east side (the right).

I can turn one way and be right, or I can turn the other and be wrong. Maybe I'll just stay in the middle and watch.

—Dana Rodet  
*Westlake*

**READ THE DATA,  
 LET IT SINK IN**

Scientific research announced last month underscores the May 22 Guest Viewpoint ("Is Florence Essential In The Fight To Curb Climate Change?").

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) posted the highest-ever recorded level of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2). It is the primary greenhouse gas that heats up the planet, melts glaciers and polar ice, and produces extreme weather phenomena ([www.nationalgeographic.com/climate-change/how-to-live-with-it/weather.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/climate-change/how-to-live-with-it/weather.html)).

On April 3, atmospheric CO2 reached 421 ppm (parts per million) — the highest in 3.6 million years, when sea level was 78 feet higher than today and the average temperature 7 degrees warmer (<https://research.noaa.gov/article/ArtMID/587/ArticleID/2742/Despite-pandemic-shutdowns-carbon-dioxide-and-methane-surged-in-2020>).

When industrialization began 250 years ago, atmospheric CO2 was 280 ppm, about as high as during the previous 800,000 years.

With the addition of the global population explosion from 1

billion in 1800 to 8 billion today, CO2 climbed steadily to 315 ppm by 1960, then sharply to over 400 ppm by 2015 and to 415 ppm last year ([www.sea-level.info/co2.html](http://www.sea-level.info/co2.html)).

The cause of climate disruption is obvious. A NOAA Global Monitoring Lab official puts it bluntly: "Human activity is driving climate change. If we want to mitigate the worst impacts, it's going to take a deliberate focus on reducing fossils fuels emissions to near zero — and even then we'll need to look for ways to further remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere."

Check out the websites.

Read the data, look at the graphs and let them sink in.

— Rollin Olson and  
 Madelyne Barnett  
 Florence

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The Pregnancy and Parenting Center (PPC) would like to thank the Three Rivers Foundation for their 2021 grant of \$500 and the Western Lane Community Foundation for their 2021 grant of \$1,000, which enables the PPC to provide quality pregnancy, parenting and life skills education, both in person and online — free of charge — to anyone interested in learning skills that build stronger parents and families in Florence and the surrounding area.

We are grateful for your support.

—Susan Kirby  
 Executive Director  
 Pregnancy and Parenting Center